FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 APRIL 1987

Conclusion of PNC Session

Algiers Voice of Palestine radio broadcast the 18th PNC's "final statement," a summary of PNC resolutions which was read out during the closing session on 26 April. Reaffirming the Palestinian desire for a just and permanent peace that includes the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, the PNC said this should be realized through an "effective" international conference in which the PLO will participate "on equal footing with the other parties." The statement noted that resolutions passed by the PNC reaffirm the importance of strengthening Palestinian national unity, of consolidating the steadfastness of Palestinians living under Israeli occupation, and of adhering to the "independent national decision." The PNC also expressed pride in the "special relations" between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and stressed the importance of Egypt's return to its "national position in the Arab arena."

Differences between Yasir 'Arafat and the PFLP and DFLP leaders over the wording of the resolution on relations with Egypt delayed the conclusion of the conference and almost prevented a successful outcome, the *Jordan Times* noted in a related report. Despite 'Arafat's attempts to secure amendments, the PNC endorsed a resolution stipulating that the PLO's relations with Egypt are governed by resolutions of the 16th PNC and Arab summit resolutions. A Cairo radio commentary stressed that Egypt rejects this position "in form and content," and MENA noted Egyptian press reports that the Egyptian delegation withdrew from the PNC to protest the Palestinian stand. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak warned the PNC that Egypt will take "the toughest conceivable measures" against Palestinian leaders who seek to harm Egypt, according to an *Akhbar al-Yawm* report cited by MENA. The Egyptian paper disclosed that Mubarak will define Egypt's reaction in his upcoming 1 May speech.

On relations with Syria, the PNC called for "correcting and establishing relations" on the basis of common "struggle objectives," according to the text of PNC resolutions broadcast by Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio. The PNC also called for continued "armed, popular, and political" struggle against Israel and stressed the "continued rejection" of Security Council Resolution No 242, which is "not considered a good basis for a settlement of the Palestine question."

As for organizational issues, Algiers Voice of Palestine broadcast proceedings of the final session in which the PNC approved 15 nominees listed by 'Arafat for a new PLO Executive Committee and 26 others suggested as members of the 75-person PLO Central Council. The new committee includes Palestinian Communist Party representative Sulayman Najjab and independent poet Mahmud Darwish. 'Arafat disclosed that Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) leader Muhammad 'Abbas will remain on the committee temporarily while attempts are made to reunify his faction with the other PLF group led by Tal'at Ya'qub.

In another development, 'Arafat told Radio Monte Carlo he is ready to meet with Israeli minister 'Ezer Weizman "within the United Nations" for talks on establishing a binational democratic state in Palestine. Weizman responded he is ready to meet 'Arafat in the UN building or anywhere else if the PLO leader announces his acceptance of UN Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 and declares a halt to terrorism, Israel's *Hadashot* reported.

Syria-USSR

All talks between Syrian and Soviet officials were carried out in "an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding," according to a "joint statement" carried by TASS 26 April. The statement emphasized agreement that the "fundamental issue" is to provide for a nonviolent and democratic world and expressed the two countries' "serious anxiety" over the "acute conflict" in the Mideast, especially "the aggressive actions of Israel and imperialism." The two sides noted the "important place" of military cooperation in joint relations, and also stressed the need to "restore unity in the ranks of the Palestinian resistance." In a previous account of the talks between the two leaders, TASS cited the Syrian president's pledge that his country "will do everything it can" to promote joint Arab action for a political settlement in the Mideast.

The Soviet agency also reported that Al-Asad was received 25 April by Andrey Gromyko, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Within the framework of the visit, documents on trade, economic, and technical cooperation were signed.

Prior to the Syrian president's departure, Gorbachev presided over an official farewell ceremony at the Kremlin. Among the officials who saw Al-Asad off at the airport were Andrey Gromyko, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Defense Minister Sergey Sokolov, and CPSU official Anatoliy Dobrynin. According to KUNA, the Syrian foreign and defense ministers remained in Moscow for further discussions.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces launched "Karbala'-10" in the northwestern sector during the predawn hours of Friday, IRNA announced 26 April. The agency reported that 250 square kilometers of Iraq were "liberated" as Iranian forces advanced 25 km into Iraqi territory and that enemy casualties total 2,700. A military statement cited by Tehran radio noted that the operation was mounted to support the struggle of the Iraqi Kurds.

For Iraq's part, a military spokesman told INA 27 April that Iraqi soldiers inflicted "heavy losses" in men and materiel on an enemy force which tried to capture a height in the northern sector of the battlefield. A communique broadcast 24 April by Voice of

the Masses radio noted that Iraqi warplanes hit two large maritime targets near the Iranian coast and downed an Iranian F-4.

Iraq-USSR

President Saddam Husayn met with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy in Baghdad 25 April, INA reported, adding that Petrovskiy delivered a message from CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev on bilateral relations and the situation in the region. During a tour of Basra the previous day, the Soviet official deplored the postponement of measures to end the Iran-Iraq war, the agency noted.

Kuwait

A car bomb exploded 26 April near the Kuwait Petroleum Company headquarters in Al-Ahmadi, according to an Interior Ministry source cited by KUNA.

An *Al-Ra'y al-Amm* editorial cited by the agency 25 April stressed Kuwait's independence and questioned the reasons for the attempts to interfere in the country's internal affairs by spreading "false rumors and fabricated news." The previous day Tehran radio reported Kuwaiti University students were circulating a statement against the involvement of "foreign powers" in Gulf shipping and security. The radio also reported Kuwaiti police were arresting "innocent people" in connection with several large explosions in Al-Ahmadi storage tanks, adding an army truck was firebombed in the Jayran region.

Iran

Warning to Kuwait — President 'Ali Khamene'i warned Kuwait against "seeking refuge behind the skirts of the United States and the USSR," in a Friday prayers sermon cited by Tehran radio. The president also reminded Iran's neighbor on the Gulf that key Kuwaiti facilities are within range of Iranian fire and added that his country has not used all its options to "bring pressure to bear." Addressing some of his remarks to the Soviet Union, Khamene'i urged the USSR not to make a "grave error" and reiterated Iran's opposition to a "Soviet presence in the Gulf."

Oil for Syria — Following a meeting between Oil Minister Golam Reza Aqazadeh and his Syrian counterpart, it was announced that Iran will donate 1 million tons of crude in support of Syria's "steadfastness" and to help meet the needs of its armed forces, IRNA reported 25 April.

Disinformation Decried — A Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by IRNA 26 April accused the United States of "trying novel schemes" to sow discord among Muslim nations. He characterized U.S. media allegations that Iran gave the United States intelligence information prior to the April 1986 bombing of Libya as "far too ridiculous to warrant a denial."

Israel

Arens in Washington — Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's arguments against an international conference were well received by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, according to officials in Shamir's office cited in a Jerusalem television report on Moshe Arens' visit.

West Bank, Gaza — Several people were injured in a "mass fistfight" between Jews and Arabs in the Qalqilyah area of the West Bank 25 April, Jerusalem radio reported. The fighting followed a dispute over land. Israeli cars were set on fire by Molotov cocktails in Qalqilyah and Gaza the same day, the radio noted.

Libya

Diplomats Expelled from Kenya — A "responsible source" of the People's Liaison Bureau denied Kenyan accusations that Libyan diplomats were engaging in espionage, JANA reported 24 April. According to the Nairobi *Daily Nation*, the Libyan charge d'affaires and four other embassy officials were declared personae non gratae and ordered to leave the country.

British Engineer Released — In remarks cited by JANA, British engineer Robert Maxwell reiterated his thanks to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for intervening to secure his release. Regarding his espionage conviction, Maxwell admitted that he was guilty "according to Libyan law."

Western Sahara

A Moroccan F-5 was shot down 26 April in the Guelta Zemmour area, according to a Polisario statement cited by Algiers radio. The statement added that in overrunning and occupying several positions along the defense wall, Saharan forces captured "many" Moroccan soldiers and various weapons.

DRA

Revolution Anniversary Activities — A "grand meeting" of party and government officials was held at the headquarters of the Revolutionary Council 26 April in connection with the 9th anniversary of the April Revolution, Kabul radio reported. The meeting was addressed by Foreign Minister 'Abdol Wakil and by RSFSR official Lev Borisovich Yermin, who heads a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation. In honor of the anniversary and in line with the effort to strengthen the armed forces, PDPA General Secretary Najibullah presided over a ceremony to promote Defense Minister Mohammad Rafi to major general and 25 colonels to brigadier general. The government also declared a partial amnesty, the radio reported.

Wakil Stopover in Moscow — Foreign Minister Wakil and his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, had a "warm, comradely" meeting 25 April during which the ministers reiterated that U.S. "interference" is the "main obstacle" to a political settlement of the situation in Afghanistan, TASS reported. The agency noted that Wakil stopped over in Moscow en route from Havana to Kabul.

Protest to Iran — According to TASS, the Iranian charge d'affaires was handed a "strong protest" regarding a 23 April attack by gunmen on the residence of the Afghan charge in Tehran.

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Pakistani Paper Cited on Soviet Annexation Plan

LD271107 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Islamabad, April 27, IRNA — The Soviet Union is planning to separate northern Afghan Provinces, bordering the U.S.S.R. and annex them on the pretext of giving these provinces autonomy, said the Pakistani Urdu language daily 'BAKAR' in its Sunday issue.

The paper quoting foreign diplomats in Islamabad said that several agreements for cooperation have been signed between northern Afghan provinces and the Soviet republics in Central Asia without ever naming Moscow or Kabul.

Council Decrees Pardons for Certain Prisoners

LD261943 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] The DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium in accordance with Paragraph 6, Article 143 of the DRA Basic Principles, has pardoned and released from the remainder of their prison terms a number of female and male prisoners of the capital and provinces of the country on the occasion of the 9th anniversary of the glorious April Revolution. The Punishment Pardon Department of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium in announcing the news added that the decree on the release of the aforementioned prisoners has been sent to the relevant authorities.

Decree No 37 of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, 26 April 1987, Kabul City, on the release of the personnel of the Armed Forces and the DRA citizens who are eligible for conscription by utilizing [words indistinct].

The DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, in accordance with the policy of national reconciliation and in consideration of the [words indistinct] of the personnel of the Armed Forces and those citizens who are eligible for service in the DRA Armed Forces and who have been imprisoned in accordance with Article 43 of the DRA Basic Principles approves:

Article 1. The prison terms of the following prisoners who are eligible for service in the Armed Forces are be (?remitted) in accordance with Article 3 of this decree and the prisoners are to be mobilized in the Armed Forces.

a. Those who have been sentenced to 12 years imprisonment in accordance with Articles 105 and 115 of the Military Penal Code and Article 8 of the Law on Crimes Against Combat Readiness and Article 17 of the Military Crimes Law and who have served one-third or more of this period in prison.

b. Those who have been sentenced to 15 years in accordance with Article 175 and Article 86 of the Penal Code and who have served a quarter or more of the imprisonment period.

c. All other people who have been sentenced to 12 years in accordance with (?penal laws) and who have served a quarter or more of this period.

d. Those who have been sentenced to 7 years imprisonement in accordance with the law and in accordance with Articles 29, 30, 49 and 50 of the Penal Code and who have served 2 years or more.

Article 2. The articles of this decree cannot be applied to habitual criminals and the following cases:

a. People who have been sentenced on charges of committing terror, espionage and conspiracy in order to (?overthrow) the state.

b. People who have been sentenced in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5, Article 8 of the Law on Crimes Against Combat Readiness of the Armed Forces and similar crimes included in Article 17 of the Military Crimes Law.

c. People who have been imprisoned in accordance with Article 175 of the Penal Code and whose cases are not included in Article 1 of this decree.

d. Those sentenced on charges of committing crimes mentioned in Articles 176, 178, 179 and paragraph 1, Article 192, Articles 205, 206 and 217 of the Penal Code.

e. Those sentenced on charges of committing crimes mentioned in Articles 395, 396 and 449 and paragraphs 2, 3 and 4, Article 455, Articles 268 and 270 and Articles 360 to 366 of the Penal Code.

Article 3. [passage indistinct]

Article 4. The implementation of this decree is the task of those commissions who have been duty bound to implement the law in accordance with Decrees 272 and 273 dated 25 January 1987 of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium.

Article 5. This decree is be implemented within 2 months through the relevant authorities in accordance with the procedure of the [words indistinct]. In calculating the elapsed imprisonment period, the date 27 April 1987 is valid.

Article 6. This decree is valid from the date of approval and will be published in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] Haji Mohammad Chamkani, acting chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium

Ceremony Marks Revolution's 9th Anniversary

LD262109 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Excerpt] To mark the 9th anniversary of the April Revolution, a grand meeting was held this afternoon by the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, the Council of Ministers, and the Central Council of the National Fatherland Front [NFF] of the DRA, and the Supreme Council of National Reconciliation at the Salamkhana Palace Hall, the Revolutionary Council headquarters.

Taking part in the meeting were: Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the DRA Council of Ministers; Haji Mohammad Chamkani, acting president of the Revolutionary Council and the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium; Abdorrahim Hatef, chairman of the NFF Central Council and chairman of the Supreme Council of National Reconciliation; some members of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat; members of the PDPA Central Committee; some members of the Council of Ministers, Revolutionary Council, the NFF Central Council; some members of the Central Council of National Reconciliation; members of the councils of people's representatives of Kabul Province and Kabul city; members of the National Reconciliation Commission of Kabul Province and Kabul city; members of the central units of social organizations; DRA national personalities and heroes; academic personalities; party activists of the party organizations of Kabul city and Kabul Province; representatives of the Armed Forces; and representatives of nationalities, tribes, and ethnic groups of the country, capital, and provinces.

Also Taking part in the meeting were: Lev Borisovich Yermin, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation, who is heading a high-ranking delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet; foreign guests participating at the ninth anniversary of the April Revolution; and ambassadors and political representatives of friendly countries in the DRA.

A BIA correepondent reports that the meeting was opened by Comrade Zohur Razmjo, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the Kabul city party Central Committee; the DRA national anthem was played. Then Comrade 'Abdol Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Central Committee and the DRA foreign affairs minister, spoke about the revolutionary changes which, under the leadership of the PDPA, have taken place in various political, social, economic, and cultural areas of our country. He said:

The 9th anniversary of the DRA's April Revolution is an anniversary different from [words indistinct] of past years. At the beginning of the [words indistinct], the (?18th) plenum of the PDPA Central Committee, which created new conditions for the party, the state, and all the people toward solving the most important and most vital questions. This anniversary is distinguished also because the national reconciliation policy is presently being implemented. The policy of national reconciliation was proposed and put forward by patriotic religious leaders. The extraordinary PDPA Central Committee Plenum, comprehensively assessing and analyzing the situation prevailing in our country and considering the demands and the efforts of all sincere people, announced the national reconciliation policy to all our people and the people of the world.

Comrade 'Abdol Wakil added: The path of national reconciliation, is the path in accord with the national traditions of our people and the sacred religion of Islam. Does the sacred religion of Islam not invite us to peace and fraternity among the faithful? Does the sacred religion of Islam not (?prevent) the Afghans from war, murder, and fratricide? The meaning of national reconciliation is the path leading to the (?prosperity) of our society, the path toward the elimination of backwardness, and the path toward well-being for every Afghan family.

Comrade Wakil added: On behalf of the participants in this meeting and on behalf of the people of Afghanistan, we express the greatest gratitude to the Soviet Union for its selfless internationalist assistance and its support, and we wish the Soviet people, under the leadership of the party of Lenin, the greatest successes in the accomplishment of [words indistinct]. On our part, we shall always remember who helped us in our difficult moments and who sacrificed their most valuable thing, the lives of their children for our freedom, and we shall make every effort that Afghan-Soviet friendship should forever progress and be consolidated.

The BIA correspondent adds that afterward, Comrade Lev Borisovich Yermin, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation, delivered a statement in connection with the friendly relations and the fraternal cooperation between the USSR and the DRA and said:

I am honored, on behalf of the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation, to congratulate you on the 9th anniversary of the victory of the April Revolution and through you, all the people of Afghanistan, and to convey to you the best wishes of the leaders of our country: Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Comrade Andrey Gromyko, president of the Supreme Soviet Presidium; and Comrade N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

Comrade Zohur Razmjo stated that the national reconciliation policy once again displays the inclination of the DRA leadership toward normalizing the situtation in the country and the region and in creating conditions of cooperation and the equality of rights with its neighbors. The Soviet Union expresses all-round support for this policy by the DRA leadership and follows with interest the advancement and implementation of this policy. The increasing support for the policy of national reconciliation by the broad masses of Afghan society is the guarantor of [words indistinct]. We wish success for our Afghan friends in this difficult and noble task.

He added: The people of the Soviet Union welcome the peaceful foreign policy of the DRA and the flexible and constructive stand of the Afghan leadership vis-a-vis the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. This policy enjoys increasing international support and a large number of people in the world realize the fact that policy of national reconciliation and the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan are linked policies with each other. Those who create obstacles on the path of national reconciliation and continue interfering in the DRA's internal affairs and deliberately prolong bloodshed in the country, expose themselves further. They, however, should not forget that Afghanistan has reliable friends on its side. [passage omitted]

USSR Sends Greetings on Revolution Anniversary
LD251758 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] The following congratulatory message from the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers, has arrived addressed to Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; and esteemed Haji Mohammad Chamkani, acting president of the DRA Revolutionary Council:

On behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers, from the bottom of our hearts, we congratulate you, the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, the DRA Government, and all the friendly people of Afghanistan on the occasion of the national festival: the 9th anniversary of the April Revolution.

The victory of the April Revolution, under the PDPA's leadership, has opened broad horizons before the people of Afghanistan for national growth on the basis of the principles of progress, democracy, and justice. The ideas of the national and democratic revolution have been creatively reflected in the announced program of national reconciliation which responds to the deep-rooted interests of all the people of Afghanistan.

The DRA Armed Forces have ceased fire unilaterally, within the framework of the national reconciliation. The DRA leadership authorities have presented a proposal for the start of a constructive dialogue to form a government of national unity. This government, on the basis of patriotism and democracy, will unite all those who sincerely link their future with an independent Afghanistan having national sovereignty and following a policy of nonalignment. The Soviet Union unreservedly supports this policy and is also ready to assist its practical implementation in the future.

The peaceful policy of the DRA and the constructive approach of the DRA Government to issues regarding the political solution of the events around Afghanistan, has gained broad international support. Meanwhile, those forces that continue their interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, that try to forestall the process of national reconciliation, and (?work) on the path of war and the continuation of bloodshed in Afghanistan, only further expose their intentions.

After the victory of the April Revolution, Soviet-Afghan relations have further expanded with speed and long-lasting dynamism. These relations are characterized by new, multifaceted cooperation.

In the future, the Soviet Union will also give comprehensive assistance to the people of Afghanistan in their constructive and peaceful endeavors.

We wish the friendly people of Afghanistan, the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, and the DRA Government new victories in attaining national reconciliation and peace in the land of Afghanistan.

[Signed] The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers

Najibullah Announces Military Promotions
LD262154 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, this morning at the party Central Committee presented promotions to those officers of the Armed Forces who have been promoted to the ranks of major general and brigadier general on the occasion of the 9th anniversary of the victory of the glorious April Revolution.

While presenting the promotions, Comrade Najib, on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, the Revolutionary Council, and DRA Council of Ministers, expressed congratulations on the 9th anniversary of the victory of the April Revolution as well as on their promotion to the rank of general. He said that the 9th anniversary of the victory of the glorious April revolution is celebrated at a time when the policy of national reconciliation has been announced in the DRA at the wish of the people and the will of the people's power. With the realization of this humane policy, peace and tranquility will be secured in the country and the social base of our enemies will be weakened.

Comrade Najib specified the tasks of the generals of the country's Armed Forces in realizing the policy of national reconciliation, enhancing the level of combat education and training of the personnel, raising combat readiness and bringing up to strength the units and companies of the Armed Forces, preventing criminal and subversive actions of the extremist elements, and maintaining tranquility and stability in the country. He stated that in order to implement the policy of national reconciliation, the armed forces must be brought up to strength. Without the existence of a strong, organized, and disciplined armed forces, the maintenance of peace and the realization of national reconciliation is impossible.

Then Comrade Major General Mohammad Rafi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the DRA minister of defense, spoke on behalf of the officers who were promoted to the ranks of major general and brigadier general. While expressing thanks for the consistent attention paid by the PDPA and and DRA Government to the Afghan Armed Forces, he pledged they will render their duties in accordance with the wishes of the PDPA and the DRA Government. He also pledged their readiness for every sacrifice in implementing the policy of national reconciliation and maintaining nationwide peace.

According to the BIA report, Comrade Brigadier General Mohammad Rafi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA minister of defense, was promoted to the rank of major general. The following colonels were promoted to brigadier general on the occasion of the 9th anniversary of the April Revolution:

'Abdol Satar, son of Mohammad Yaqub;
'Abdol Sabur, son of 'Abdol Latif;

'Abdol Khaleq, son of Mohammad Sarwar;
Barakzai, son of Bodgai;
Emamoddin, son of Jomaddin;
'Abdol Sabur, son of 'Abdol Qayum;
'Abdol Ghafar, son of 'Abdorrahman;
Qeyamoddin, son of Saleh Mohammad;
Gholam Faruq, son of Shah Mohammad;
Ajab Khan, son of Safdar Khan;
Mohammad Shafi, son of Mohammad Zaman;
Fazl Haq, son of 'Abdorrashid;
Ali Akbar, son of Mohammad Osman;
Habiborrahman, son of 'Abdorrahman;
Mohammad Nader, son of Habibollah;
Mohammad Rasul, son of Jangol;
'Abdorrazaq, son of Nader Shah;
Nader Ali, son of Joma;
Aziz Ahmad, son of Aziz Khan;
Gol Khan, son of Akbar Khan;
Khan Aqa, son of Amir Jan;
'Abdollah, son of Faqir Mohammad;
Nuranshah, son of Mohammad Shah;
'Abdol Matin, son of 'Abdol Qodus;
Mohammad Sediq, son of Mohammad Amin.

The BIA report adds that present at the promotion ceremony were: Comrades Lieutenant General Gholam Faruq Yaqubi, member of PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of state security; Comrade Sayyed Mohammad Golabzoy, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and interior minister; Brigadier General 'Abdol Haq Ulumi, in charge of a department at the PDPA Central Committee; and heads of political affairs of the Armed Forces.

Reportage on Visit of USSR's Yermin, Delegation

Received by Chamkani

LD260121 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Lev Borisovich Yermin, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation, heads a high-ranking delegation that arrived in Kabul this morning at the invitation of the DRA Revolutionary Council for an official and friendly visit.

Haji Mohammad Chamkani, acting chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council; General Gol Aqa, vice chairman of the Revolutionary Council Presidium; Haji Nezamuddin, vice chairman of the Revolutionary Council; Gholam Mohyiadin Amar, secretary of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium; Fazol Haq, head of the party State Power Consolidation Section; Seyyed Amanuddin Amin, deputy prime minister; and Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Soviet Union to the DRA, and a number of high-ranking officials of that embassy welcomed the delegation at Kabul International Airport.

Talks, Reception Held

LD260125 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Haji Mohammad Chamkani, acting chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, met this afternoon at Gol Khanah Palace the high-ranking delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet headed by Lev Borisovich Yermin, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation.

At the meeting, Haji Mohammad Chamkani spoke in detail about the activities of the DRA Revolutionary Council and selfless Afghan-Soviet friendship and said: The Afghan-Soviet friendship, whose foundation was laid by V.I. Lenin, leader of the world's toiling people, and King Amanollah, is being strengthened and expanded daily. He also expressed appreciation for the selfless assistance of the Soviet Union in various spheres of our people's life.

In response, the head of the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation, having explained the activities of the USSR Supreme Soviet in the spheres of legislation and measures and decisions of the Supreme Soviet on consolidation of peace in the world, expressed thanks for the support of the DRA Revolutionary Council for the peace initiative of the Soviet Union and said: As stated by Comrade M.S. Gorbachev in Vladivostock, I, on behalf of the USSR Supreme Soviet, promise to you that the friendly relations between our countries will remain firm and strong in the interest of both countries' people and in the interest of peace in the region and world based on the principle of reciprocal respect, friendly cooperation, and non-interference. The head of the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation, on behalf of that country's Supreme Soviet, invited esteemed Haji Mohammad Chamkani to pay a friendly visit to that country at a convenient time. This invitation was accepted with thanks.

Gholam Mohyiadin Umar, secretary of the Revolutionary Council Presidium, and members of the high-ranking delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet were present.

A reception was given tonight by the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium in honor of the high-ranking delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The reception was attended by Haji Mohammad Chamkani and a number of high-ranking party and state officials. During the reception, speeches were exchanged between Haji Mohammad Chamkani, acting chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and Lev Borisovich Yermin, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation.

Yermin, Keshtmand Hold Talks

LD260126 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, met this afternoon at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers with the high-ranking delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet headed by Lev Borisovich Yermin, mem-

ber of the USSR Supreme Soviet and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation.

During the meeting, while Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Soviet Union to the DRA and [name indistinct] minister counsellor of that country were present, talks were held on subjects of mutual interest.

Najibullah Meets With Yerzin

LD261502 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Kabul, 26 Apr *(Bakhtar)* — Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, met this morning in his office at of party Central Committee headquarters a high ranking delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet headed by Lev Borisovich Yermin, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet [as received] and first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, which is in our country on a friendly visit.

During the meeting, which was attended by Haji Mohammad Chamkani, acting chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union to the DRA, talks were held in a friendly atmosphere on subjects of mutual interest.

Mujahidin Kill, Injure 12 Soviet-Kabul Troops

BK240814 Karachi Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have attacked the security post near (Qallath Ghalzai), the capital of Zabol Province.

Twelve Soviet-Kabul troops were killed or injured in the attack, and a tank was destroyed.

President Ershad Receives ROK Special Envoy, Letter
BK251704 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] The South Korean president's special envoy called on the president in Dhaka today. Mr Kim Song-Ki handed over President Chon Tu-hwan's letter to President Ershad.

The president said he hopes the existing friendsip between Bangladesh and South Korea will be further strengthened. The South Korean envoy called on Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury.

Fourth Congress of Communist Party Opens
BK241030 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Apr 87 pp 1,8

[Text] The five-day Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), was inaugurated at the institution of Engineers on Tuesday.

Mr Mohammad Farhad, MP, General Secretary of the party in his presidential address called upon all patriotic people, ulema-e-keram [religious scholars], imams of the mosques and all minority classes and sects to come forward to perform the patriotic duty.

He also called upon all section of people to fight against imperialism and captialism in order to establish socialism to ensure the people's rights.

Mr Farhad asserted that his party had giver preference to the left progressive forces for bringing socialistic change in the society.

The General Secretary observed that democracy was now absent from the country. On the contrary, the anti-liberation forces are being organised in the name of religion, he added.

Mr Farhad remarked that lives of the people have become miserable following soaring prices of essentials. He accused the Government for all these miseries following pursuing the anti-people policies.

He said that the Government had been contemplating to withdraw students from politics and had imposed restriction on the meeting places in Dhaka city. The country has now turned into a depot of corruption, smuggiing and many nationalised industries are being denationalised and turned into a holding company, Mr Farhad mentioned.

The General Secretary observed that the main objectives of independence have not yet been achieved as yet.

Mr Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Secretary, Central Committee of the Party, in his speech said that his party was committed to establish the rights of the masses through socialism.

The congress was addressed by Mr Abdus Samad Azad, of Awami League, BAKSAL [Bangladesh Awami Krishak Sramik Awami League] General Secretary Abdur Razzaq, Mr Mohammad Toha Sammayabadi Dal, Al-Haj Abdus Samad of Gano Azadi League and Syed Altaf Hossain.

Mr Farhad expressed the hope that his party would continue to carry on its movement for the establishment of "people's rule" in the truest sense of the term by performing its role both inside and outside Parliament as an ally of the 15-party alliance.

Inaugural session of the CPB congress, being held after seven years, was attended by representative from different Communist Parties of foreign countries, particularly from the East European nations. Representatives of Soviet Union, Vietnam, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, PLO, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia were among others who spoke on the occasion.

Leading political leaders from Awami League, BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party], NAP-U [National Awami Party-U], and representatives from various student and labour organisations also took part in the inaugural session and spoke briefly.

At the beginning of the session, Party General Secretary moved a special "resolution of honour" to the ailing party chief Moni Singh, who could not attend the congress. The party endorsed its deep respect and gratitude to its founding father describing him as "a legend of Communist movement in the subcontinent".

The CPB also passed an obituary reference for those who died during passage of last five years' movement for restoration of democracy. It expressed deep shock at the sad demise of leading figures of socialism both at home and abroad.

In the report of the General Secretary, the party observed that after the killing of the "father of the Nation" Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975, the country was pushed through international conspiracies and crises of the nation were deepening from all aspects.

Calling for a national renaissance, the party observed that the people from all sections of life should now come forward with zeal and dedication for what it said establishment of a "real democracy" free from exploitation of the peasants, working class and fixed income groups.

Besides participation of representatives from various Communist Parties of the world, it received greeting messages from 21 countries including Nicaragua, Kampuchea, Britain, France, Italy, Ethiopia, Poland, Indonesia, Iran, and Afghanistan.

2d Phase Troop Withdrawal Complete in Barmer-Chhor

BK251333 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] The second phase of pullout troops from the Barmer-Chhor sector in the south and Hindu Malkot-Mandi Sadigganj sector in the north along the Indo-Pakistan border has been completed. This has been done in accordance with the understanding reached between India and Pakistan after the second round of talks held at Islamabad.

A release issued by the Ministry of Defense in New Delhi today says the pullout was accomplished in a phased manner and was monitored by the directors general of military operations of both the armies.

Defense Minister on Rethinking Nuclear Option

BK270902 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, told the Lok Sabha today that India is being forced to reconsider its nuclear options particularly in the face of the emerging nuclear threat from Pakistan.

Replying to the debate on the demand for grants of his ministry, Mr Pant said that Pakistan is continuing its nuclear program single-mindedly. The linkage of Pakistan, China, and the United States with (?their) pronounced anti-India overtones has a bearing on our security environment.

Besides, the manner in which the United States has chosen to ignore the search of Pakistan for nuclear capabilities has left India with no choice but to take appropriate defensive measures. India is pursuing various options to upset the danger posed by the United States clearing the supply of Air Warning And Control System — AWACS — to Pakistan.

Referring to the "Brass Tacks" excercise undertaken by the Indian Army recently, Mr Pant said despite the government's clear understanding with Pakistan that it was an annual affair, Pakistan seized the opportunity to seek the help from the United States to upgrade its militarization program. He said the arms acquired by Pakistan has no relevance to its border with Afghanistan.

Parliament Discusses Sri Lanka, China, Pakistan

BK241610 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Members in the Rajya Sabha today expressed grave concern over the situation in Sri Lanka and urged the government to take immediate steps to stop large-scale killings of innocent civilians. They were participating in the debate on the working of the External Affairs Ministry, which remained inconclusive. They said only a political solution can be found to the ethnic problem in the island.

Members also expressed deep anxiety over the situation at the India-China border. Members wanted that a fresh initiative be taken to solve the boundary question. A suggestion was made that talks should immediately be started with China at political level.

Members also said that even though India has been trying its best to improve relations with Pakistan, Islamabad is arming itself with the latest weaponry from the United States.

A member stated that in view of Pakistan having acquired nuclear capability, India should make the bomb. But another member cautioned that time is not yet ripe for it.

Cabinet Committee on Sri Lanka

BK260326 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] In New Delhi, the cabinet Committee on Political Affairs yesterday discussed the Sri Lankan situation in the wake of the pronouncement by the island government.

The meeting was presided over by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Earlier, senior officials of the External Affairs Ministry briefed him on the latest situation in Sri Lanka.

External Affairs Minister Fetes ROK Emissary

BK230910 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, has said that India and South Korea should join together in promoting North-South dialogue.

Speaking at a dinner hosted in honor of the South Korean president's special envoy, Mr Kim Song-ki in New Delhi last night, Mr Tiwari said the need of the hour is to usher in a new international economic order. He regretted that the growth prospects for developing countries have become bleak and called for restructuring of world monetary and financial institutions.

Mr Tiwari expressed the hope that the problem of the Korean peninsula would be solved through peaceful negotiations.

Karachi Notes Troops' Pullout From Indian Border

BK260243 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] The pullout of troops from the Barmer-Chhor sector in the south and Hindu Malkot-Mandi sector in the north along the Pakistan-India border has been completed. This has been done in accordance with the understanding reached between Pakistan and India during their second round of talks held in Islamabad.

Foreign Minister Defends Nuclear Installations

BK231752 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said the government has taken appropriate precautionary steps to protect the country's peaceful nuclear installations. He said this while opposing an adjournment motion which was sought to be moved by Chaudhary Mohammad Tariq [in the Senate]. The motion sought to discuss the press reports on collusion between Israel and India on attacking Pakistan's nuclear installations. He said that although such occasional reports have caused concern, the Indian Government has rejected them. He said an agreement was reached between Pakistan and India on December 1985 that they will not attack each other's nuclear installations.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that the government has made it clear that any attack on Pakistan's nuclear installations will be considered an act of war, in which case effective retaliatory steps will be taken against the aggressor. He said that no one should misunderstand Pakistan's defense capability against such aggression. The move was not pressed. [passage omitted]

Press Note on Karachi, Liaqatabad Situation Issued

BK241718 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] A press note issued by the Karachi local administration tonight says that the situation in the city remained normal throughout today and there was no report of any untoward incident in any part of the city.

Traffic movement was normal in Liaqatabad, but there were reports of stray attempts to throw stones in a couple of streets. The administration has asked the notables of the area to continue to extend their cooperation in bringing the Liaqatabad area situation to normal.

Bhutto Says Her Party Against 'Politics of Violence'

BK231523 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
10 Apr 87 p 8

[Text] Chakwal, April 9: Miss Benazir Bhutto, the co-Chairperson the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] has said that her party did not believe in the politics of violence that is why they had deferred their demand for the holding of fresh elections in autumn this year. She was addressing the Chakwal District Bar here today.

Ms. Bhutto said: "We want elections before 1990 and for this, we will take all democratic forces into confidence and launch an organised movement to accomplish the goal."

Referring to anti-Pakistan slogans being raised in the country, Miss Bhutto said the people of Pakistan would foil all nefarious designs of the anti-national forces. She said no external or internal power could cause any harm to the country provided there was complete unity in the rank and file of the nation.

She said the Government which did not have roots in the masses gave birth to violence as it had no control over the situation. She demanded immediate elections on party basis under the 1973 Constitution.

Later talking to newsmen, the co-Chairperson of the PPP said that so for as the registration of her party was concerned, they had already submitted its accounts to the Election Commission. "However, we will not tolerate any blackmailing under the cover of registration," she warned.

To a question, Miss Bhutto said her party will not establish any contact with the Government intended to negotiate on the holding of fresh elections under the 1973 Constitution. "We will take part in the talks in the greater interest of the nation," she added.

To a question about Government's contacts with Opposition parties, she said the Government was conspiring to divide the politicians into groups. She said that democratic forces with the cooperation of the people will foil all conspiracies against the nation.

Later, Miss Benazir Bhutto attended the marriage ceremony of Nazar Kiyani's daughter at Moza Bhown. Talking to party workers there, Miss Bhutto urged them to create unity and cohesion in their ranks. [passage omitted]

SRI LANKA

President Assails Terrorists' Rejection of Peace

BK271126 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] The government has stretched out its hand of peace and friendship to the terrorists but this has been rejected along with the efforts made by India on this issue. President Jayewardene said this at a meeting organized by the United National Party in Karandeniya yesterday.

He said that all democratic political parties in the country and all those who accept democracy agree on certain principles in the present criticial situation facing the country. They all agree on antiviolence and merger of the northern and eastern provinces and to violence and antiterrorism. [sentence as heard]

The president also said that they are for peace, law and order, democracy, development, and for political settment. But the president said that as far as he can make out, there was a difference of opinion which seemed to be about the steps to be taken to eliminate terrorists and terrorism.

Threatens To Drop Elections

BK271414 Hong Kong AFP in English 1403 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Colombo, April 27 (AFP) — Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene has threatened to drop elections and renew his mandate through a referendum if Tamil separatist terrorism continues.

Mr. Jayewardene said Sunday that if Tamil separatists seeking an independent state in the north and east of the country persist in creating bloodshed, he would not hold elections planned for mid-1989 but instead conduct a referendum on his leadership of the government. He did not say when the referendum would be.

Answering opposition calls for him to resign in the wake of a car bombing in Colombo on Tuesday which killed 109 people, the 80-year-old president told a party rally that it would be foolish to quit during such a crisis. He told delegates from his United National Party (UNP) at Karandeniya in southern Sri Lanka that any resignation now would help the terrorists. Democratic parties in the island nation should join in the fight against terrorism, he said.

On Wednesday Mr. Jayewardene ordered air attacks on Tamil guerrilla bases in the northern Jaffna peninsula, despite the risk of high civilian casualties.

Mr. Jayewardene's UNP won 140 of 168 parliamentary seats in the last general elections in 1977. His failure to hold elections in 1982, winning a mandate instead through a referendum, has led to opposition charges that the president was abandoning democracy. The issue of elections for 1989 has become even more critical as the government steps up the campaign against the Tamil separatists.

The death toll in separatist-related violence is at least 6,000 since July 1983 when Sinhalese rioting against Tamils following a Tamil guerrilla attack on soldiers set the stage for the current crisis.

Mr. Jayewardene called in his speech Sunday for an agreement on principles of peace, democracy, law and anti-separatism and for the opposition to cooperate with the government against terrorism.

Indian Envoy Summoned; Gandhi Remarks Condemned

BK251621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] The Government of India has expressed deep concern and anguish over the escalation of violence in Sri Lanka in recent days. The senseless violence has taken place while serious efforts were being made to find a peaceful, political solution to the ethnic problem.

New Delhi has already condemned the massacre of civilians in Tricomalee and the Colombo bomb outrage.

The government strongly condemns the escalation of violence in the form of aerial attacks and other military steps by the Sri Lankan forces which have resulted in largescale civilian casualties.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the government is deeply concerned at the pronouncements of the Sri Lankan prime minister, Mr Premadasa, in parliament yesterday for closing the political option. Reiterating its conviction that there can be no military solution to the ethnic issue, the Indian Government urged all parties to the ethnic conflict to exercise maximum restraint. It calls upon them to create conditions which will enable early resumption of the dialogue for a negotiated political settlement which would meet the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil minority within the framework of unity and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka.

The Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, conveyed New Delhi's grief at the recent killings in Colombo and Trincomalee to the Sri Lankan acting foreign minister, Mr Fernando. He was summoned to the Foreign Office by Mr Fernando to draw attention to the resolution of the island government's parliamentary group.

Mr Dixit repeated India's suggestion not to exercise military option in a manner that would badly affect Tamil civilians of the north and the east. He attributed the increase in violence to not heeding to the suggestion.

Mr Dixit also drew the minister's attention to the reported statement of the Sri Lankan prime minister that a friend who talks of political solution at this time is an enemy of Sri Lanka. He told Mr Fernando that if the statement is correct, this is something extraordinary and India will have to consider its implications.

The Tamil United Liberation Front today appealed to the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to intervene and stop the massacre of Tamils in Sri Lanka. In a telegram to Mr Gandhi, the Politburo of the front alleged that civilian population in the northern and eastern provinces of the island have suffered heavy casualties in the aerial attacks.

Further Reportage on Government, Rebels Clashes

Security Minister on Successes

BK261133 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] The government is not prepared to accept any of the ideas put forward by the terrorists on a motherland for the Tamil people. The minister of national security, Athulathmudali, who made the statement, said that the demand by 10 percent of the population for a separate state that is to comprise 34 percent of a land of a country is a joke.

The minister pointed out that a further of minorities in Sri Lanka does not lie in obtaining power in the respective areas where they live. [sentence as heard] They should be involved in the governing machinery by uniting with the majority, giving the central government priority.

Referring to Tuesday's bomb blast in the city, Mr Athulathmudali noted that although we have been grieved by the unfortunate deaths of our people, we should not be cowed down in the midst of a challenge. There will be no reprieve for the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and the EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organizations of Students], terrorist groups. The minister disclosed that the raids carried out by the security forces yesterday were 95 percent successful. But, he said, it is natural to have setbacks on the battlefield from time to time. What is important is to move forward with determination.

Speaking further, Mr Athulathmudali stated that the government is not prepared to betray the country and the people by heeding the request of foreign groups who act as though they are [words indistinct]. He asked the people not to be provoked by rumors. He added that the government is doing everything possible to bring out normalcy in the north and in the east. The minister said that those who have been victims of cruel acts of the terrorists will be considered heroes in the history of this country.

400 'Hardcore Terrorists' Killed

BK270841 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0823 GMT 27 Apr 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 27 *(Lanka Puwath)* — About four hundred hardcore terrorists have been destroyed in the past five days in Jaffna, Batticaloa and Trincomalee areas following air strikes and ground attacks by the Security Forces, according to today's evening 'DAILY OBSERVER'.

It quotes the Media Centre as having said this morning that about 151 terrorists had been destroyed in Jaffna while about [figure indistinct] terrorists were known to have been destroyed in the Eastern Province.

The spokesman said that two of the biggest terrorist bases, one at Mahilawatuwan and the other at Krakulem were demolished by the Security Forces. [passage omitted]

Security Council Meets

BK271046 Hong Kong AFP in English 1029 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Colombo, April 27 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's National Security Council met Monday to review the military situation after five days of retaliatory raids against Tamil guerrillas in the north and east, official sources said.

The meeting, chaired by President Junius Jayewardene, began shortly after the government's Media Centre claimed that 400 rebels had been killed since the air and ground offensive began last Wednesday.

Official sources were tight-lipped about the discussions. But official sources said ministers and service chiefs reviewed the results of the offensive ordered to wipe out two leading separatists groups.

The government holds the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and its smaller ally, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), responsible for the Good Friday massacre of 127 and the bomb blast in Colombo last Tuesday which killed 109 civilians and left more than 300 others injured.

The sources said the Security Council discussed whether to pursue the air strikes despite reported civilian casualties and assessed the effects of the offensive on the LTTE and EROS. The possibility of fresh bomb attacks by the separatists in retaliation for the air strikes was also raised at the meeting, the sources said.

Police evacuated hundreds of shoppers and workers from the same area where Tuesday's bomb went off, witnesses and police said.

It was unclear how the police were informed that bombs had been planted again, but the Pettah District in the heart of the capital was quickly cordoned off and about 1,000 people fled, witnesses said. [passage omitted]

The Media Centre's report that 400 Tamils had died in the offensive since Wednesday was dismissed as "completely exaggerated" by Tamil sources and official sources, who said it was impossible to give accurate figures of casualties from aerial bombardments. The state Media Centre said 150 Tamils had died in the northern Jaffna peninsula and 250 in the northeast. The centre has also said that several guerrilla strongholds and arms dumps have been smashed and blown up, but independent confirmation was not available.

Former MP for the main Tamil political party, the Tamil United Liberation Front, Neelan Tiruchelvam said that according to

reports from the Jaffna peninsula 37 civilians had been killed and 100 wounded between Wednesday and Friday. He had no casualty figures for the guerrilla groups.

The Media Centre, the main channel for official information, gave no breakdown of its figures between guerrillas and civilians, but added that 11 members of the security forces had been killed over the same period.

The government has previously said that it believes the numerical strength of the armed and trained rebel groups to be between 3,000 and 4,000, although the guerrillas put the figure at about 10,000.

The huge differences between figures released by the Media Centre and those from Tamil rebel groups, usually released from their offices in southern India, have been a constant feature of the Tamil conflict, in which at least 6,000 people have died since mid-1983, according to conservative estimates. Rebel groups and some separatist-leaning citizens' committees put the death toll at well over 10,000.

Meanwhile, a landmine exploded killing eight members of the security forces in eastern Sri Lanka Sunday, the government said. The men died when their armoured personnel vehicle drove over [words indistinct] Trincomalee district a government statement said. Five of the dead were soldiers, two members of the national auxiliary force and one a police constable.

Attacks on Terrorists Continue
BK271156 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] In the Jaffna district, intense patrolling continues with machinegun attacks on terrorist bunkers and hideouts. The (?Media) Center said that reconnaissance flights by helicopters are helping to spot and prevent terrorist movements as well as to interrupt their radio communications with south India. At Palaly yesterday evening, terrorists fired mortars from the front compound of a Hindu temple. The security forces sent out patrols to intercept and destroy the mortars. This task was accomplished successfully. No mortars were fired in retaliation since the temple would be damaged.

According to the Media Center, at Vasavillan last morning the security forces launched a mortar attack on terrorists who were trying to set up a mortar fire launching pad. The mortars and the terrorists were destroyed.

2 Rebel Bases 'Demolished'
BK271501 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1444 GMT 27 Apr 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 27 *(Lanka Puwath)* — Two of the biggest terrorist bases situated at Mahilawattuwan and Eeralukulam in the Batticaloa District in eastern Sri Lanka were demolished by security forces on 25/4/87-26/4/87, the Media Centre in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath*.

The following items were recovered from these two jungle bases: 300 kilos of explosives, three land mines of 30 kilos each, shotguns, remote control landmine switches made in India, 50 electrical detonators, 50 hand grenades, 50 metres high frequency antennae wire, 50 metres very high frequency antennae wire, seven explosive devices, 40 booby trap switches and four battery operated pressure switches, one telephone and field communication equipment, a solar powered generator, cassette recorders, cassette radios, audio cassettes, battery charges, Massey Ferguson tractor, Yamaha generators, 20 gallons of diesel, 18 bags of flour, one bag of sugar, a large number of pedal cycles, stolen car parts including wind screen wipers, side mirrors, many stolen wrist watches, radios, cassette recorders and T.V. receivers. The owners who have reported these thefts and who could identify their goods can claim them from the police in Batticaloa.

Meanwhile, a report from the Jaffca District states that patrolling by security forces continue.

Terrorists are in hiding whilst explosions continue to be heard in parts of the city. No air attacks were conducted. The curfew was reimposed in the administrative district of Trincomalee at 1900 hours (local time) today and will continue till 0400 hours (local time) tomorrow.

State of Emergency Extended
BK241342 Colombo Domestic Service in English
1245 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] The extension of the state of emergency by a further month was passed in Parliament today. One hundred and ten members voted in support of proposal, while the MP for Kalawana, Neil Gunasekera, voted against it. Five opposition members were physically removed from the house today after the speaker named them for creating commotion. They were the members of Attanagalla, [names indistinct] and the third MP for Colombo Central. These five MP's were suspended from Parliament for a period of 1 week. The suspension order will apply to member for [words indistinct] as well.

Government Troops Raid Rebels' Headquarters
BK251614 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Reports from there [Batticaloa District] say the Air Force and the Army of the racist Sri Lankan Government attacked the headquarters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in (Tarani Naluaru) in the southern district Batticaloa of Tamil Eelam today and that the freedom fighters successfully retreated. The reports say the helicopter dropped soldiers of the Sri Lankan Army and the Air Force planes chartered for bombardment jointly carried out the attack. Meanwhile, from unconfirmed reports from Jaffna it is understood that the Sri Lankan Army has been continuing its bombardment today. No immediate reports about the casualties reached our station.

'Karbala'-10' Attack Launched; Iraqis 'Disarrayed'

LD261500 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Karbala'-10 Operational Theater, April 26, IRNA — Iranian Muslim combatants launched Karbala'-10 attack on Iraqi forces in a 40-kms area in Marivan, Baneh and Sardasht of northwestern fronts at 02:00 hours local time Friday (22:30 GMT Thursday).

During the early hours of the operations in which novel combat tactics were employed, Iraqi infantry and artillery units in the region were disarrayed and Iranian troops advanced tens of kilometers into enemy positions.

Muslim forces in the operations, crossed the turbulent 'Chuman' River, killing and wounding a large number of enemy troops and capturing others.

'Regional Heights' Captured

LD261536 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Karbala'-10 Operational Theater, April 26, IRNA — Iraqi heights 2008 Sargalu, 1880 Kulan, 1685 Aspidrah, 1850 Shushu and Kuh-e Namnam were captured by Iranian Muslim forces in continuation of Karbala'-10 attack launched in northwestern fronts early Friday.

During the operations launched to destroy enemy forces and capture regional heights, Iranian forces inflicted substantial casualties on the enemy, taking prisoner several Iraqi soldiers. Forty POWs have so far been transferred to this side of the fronts.

According to IRNA correspondents in the region Iraqi cities of Surah Qalat and Karizah are now within the range of artillery fire of Muslim forces who have also liberated Khazinah, police and Gona border outposts.

Iranian combatants crossed 'Chuman' and 'Kelas' Rivers and have mopped several Iraqi villages of the Ba'thist troops.

1,000 Iraqis Killed

LD261706 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA — More than 1,000 Iraqi troops were killed and wounded and 60 others, captured in the course of Karbala'-10 operations, were transferred behind the front-lines, reported the Khatem ol-'Anbiya Headquarters today.

Iranian Muslim combatants routed independent commando battalion of Iraq's First Corps in the operations launched in northwestern fronts early Friday in retaliation for Iraqi acts of mischief in the Persian Gulf as well as its chemical bombardment of Kurdish areas in northern Iraq. Muslim combatants also destroyed 70 percent of enemy Infantry Brigade 91, and totally demolished Battalions 108 and 60 of Difa' al-Watani (National Defence) Forces.

Tehran Details Successes

LD261753 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] The Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the center for directing operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, released a communique tonight, the text of which is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The heroic and selfless ummah, the zealous warriors of the corps of monotheism, following the victorious "Fath-5" and "Nasr-1" operations, launched the "Karbala'-10" operations on the morning of Friday 24 April 1987, in order to reply to the recent atrocities of the Ba'thist enemy in the Persian Gulf and his continuation of chemical bombings, particularly in the Kurdish inhabited villages of Iraq, and in order to support the struggle of the Iraqi Kurds.

In the course of these operations, which were carried out along the Sardasht, Baneh, Marivan axis, the forces of the Lord of the Era, with the objective of capturing the strategic heights of the region, crossed the Kelas and Chuman Rivers and other hard and mountainous terrains of this region and captured some new positions.

The forces of monotheism, by cutting off the communication links between the 24th and 34th Divisions of the Iraqi I Army Corps, succeeded in mopping up the following heights from the filthy presence of the Saddamists: the 1880 Kulan, 1885 Aspidrah, 1850 Shushu, 2008 Sargalu and the Kuh-e Namnam heights. Also during these operations, which were carried out under the guidance of the command headquarters for the northwestern sector of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the forces of Islam captured the Khazinah and Gona border outposts, and 25 villages of the Iraqi province of Sulaymaniyah.

In the course of these victorious operations, 80 percent of the 1st and 2d battalions of the 1st commando brigade of the VI Corps were destroyed; the 108th and 60th battalions of the Homeland Defense [Difa' al-Watani] were totally destroyed; 50 percent of 91st and 70 percent 97th Infantry Brigades were destroyed. The combatants of Islam, in liberating 120 square km of Iraqi territory, killed or wounded more than 1,200 of the Ba'thist mercenaries, and took some of their troops prisoner. So far 93 of the POWs have been taken behind the battlelines, including Major Sa'dun Ebrahim Rashid and Captain Harith Tarin, the commanders of the 1st Battalion of the Commando Brigade of the VI Corps and the 108th Battalion of the Homeland Defense, respectively. In addition to capturing several enemy tanks and personnel carriers as booty, the combatants of Islam downed one Iraqi intruding helicopter. Right now, the warriors of Islam are in control of the region's heights looking over Shurah Qalat and Karizah towns, and are crushing all moves of the Ba'thist enemy.

Phase 2 Begins

LD270823 Tehran IRNA in English 0818 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Karbala'-10 Operational Region, April 27, IRNA — The second stage of the Karbala'-10 operations was launched Sunday

night in northwestern sector of war fronts. Tehran radio interrupted its regular program around 08:00 GMT Monday, broadcasting the news of the latest operations.

4 Iraqi Battalions Destroyed
LD270850 Tehran IRNA in English 0842 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Karbala'-10 Operational Theater, April 27, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran in the second stage of Karbala'-10 operations launched in northwestern fronts Sunday night, destroyed four Iraqi battalions by 60-75 percent.

In the latest blitz of the Muslim combatants, Battalion 4 of the Commando Brigade of the Third Corps suffered 60 percent destruction and 80 of its personnel were captured. Battalion 3 of Infantry Brigade 114 were destroyed 65 percent, while Commando Battalion of Division 25, and Commando Battalion of Division 29 suffered 70 and 75 percent losses respectively.

Fighting is still continuing in the operational area with Muslim forces of Iran holding the upper hand.

Villages, Heights Liberated
LD270933 Tehran IRNA in English 0902 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Karbala'-10 Operational Region, April 27, IRNA — The Muslim Forces of Iran in the second stage of the ongoing Karbala'-10 operations in northwestern sector of war fronts took over nine strategic heights and purged 12 Iraqi villages of Iraqi Ba'thists.

The Muslim combatants in their overnight assault captured Qal'at Gah, Shorsuwa, Sargalu, Estidar [as received], heights and also heights No. 1592, 1670, 1489, 1351, 1686 and took control of the Sur Diz [as received], "Sirah" and "Basineh" [as received] areas.

The Iranian forces also purged the villages of Shihabad Din, Upper Musk, Lower Musk, Estidar, Sung, Kai Showan [as received], Qal'ah Tappah, Bulan, Okourteh [as received], Dasht-e Khatteh [as received], Sargalu, and Tyth of enemy forces.

The Muslim combatants are reportedly continuing their fight against the Iraqi forces.

Iraqi Commanders Killed, Captured
LD270934 Tehran IRNA in English 0921 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Karbala'-10 Operational Region, April 10, IRNA — A group of Iraqi commanders including commander of the Commando Battalion of the First Mechanized Division, Taqi Abu Hasum were captured by Muslim combatants during the second phase of the Karbala'-10 operations.

Several commanders of Iraqi units including commander of Commando Battalion, division 29, Major Khafir, and battalion commander of Brigade 114, Major Yahya Mahdi Muhammad, as well as eight company commanders were killed.

Iraqi Territory 'Liberated'
LD270946 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Karbala'-10 Operational Theater, April 27, IRNA — More than 250 square kilometers of northeastern Iraq were liberated in the second stage of the on-going Karbala'-10 operations, started, Sunday night.

Muslim forces of Iran by advancing 25 kilometers deep inside Iraqi territory, took firm control over the Mawat-Sulaymaniyah and Mawat-Chuwartah roads and also blocked the Mawat-Karizah and Surah Qalat roads, according to the last reports. In there operations large tracts of the Zhazilah, Khazinah and Qashan [name as received] plains were liberated.

Iraqi Counterattacks 'Smashed'
LD271003 Tehran IRNA in English 0957 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Karbala'-10 Operational Region, April 27, IRNA — The Muslim Forces of Iran after a pitched overnight battle are now firmly stationed on the strategic Mawat-Chuwartah and Mawat-Sulaymaniyah roads, said the latest report. The Muslim combatants who control 25 kms of the roads, according to the last reports, have downed an enemy helicopter and seized eight tanks and a number of personnel carriers intact.

The enemy attempted eight counterattacks in the past 48 hours all of which were totally smashed forcing Iraqi troops to flee.

In the abortive counterattacks the enemy lost 5 battalion commanders, 12 company commanders and a number of officers and NCOS, their corpses litter the region. Those captured include three battalion commanders, eight company commanders and a group of ranking officers and NCOs who have been transferred behind the war fronts.

At present the township of Surah Qalat and Karizah are in the firing range of the Muslim combatants.

Iraqi Chemical Attack 'Aborted'
LD271004 Tehran IRNA in English 0959 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Karbala'-10 Operational Region, April 27, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran have repelled eight Iraqi counterattacks in this northwestern operational region till Monday morning, stabilizing their positions and inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment on the enemy.

Muslim combatants aborted a chemical counter-attack neutralizing its effects, in 'police outpost' region in the vicinity of Burkata Village, establishing full control over the area.

With the 25 km advance of Iranian forces during the second stage of the operations started Sunday night, Surah Qalat and Karizah townships have been brought within the artillery range of the Muslim forces.

Qezel River Crossed

LD271057 Tehran IRNA in English 1049 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Karbala'-10 Operational Region, April 27, IRNA — Muslim combatants successfully crossed the Qezel River in northeastern Iraq during the second stage of Karbala'-10 operations started Sunday night, killing or wounding over 1500 Iraqi forces. The total casualty toll of the enemy since the start of the operations Friday morning has reached 2700.

According to the last report 80 Iraqi troops were captured during this phase and the number of POWs transferred behind the frontlines reached 173. A number of heights and villages were also liberated.

Iraqi Losses Detailed

LD271140 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Karbala'-10 Operational Region, April 27, IRNA — The Iraqi villages of Nalasu, Buskan, Sheshikal, Tanval, Baz Galveh [as received] Qaliasan, and Girgasha in Sulaymaniyah Province, northeastern Iraq were liberated by the Muslim forces of Iran Saturday, during the first stage of the Karbala'-10 operations. The Muslim combatants are in complete control of these villages, according to reports.

The Iranian forces employing sophisticated military tactics, crossed the Chuman, Kelas, and Qezel Rivers and after passing through the rough montainous terrain are now fully stationed on the Nam Nam heights and the northern slopes of the Gamou and Shankhesh range [names as received]. They have hoisted the flag of Islam over the 1991, 1673 and 1509 peaks.

The Iraqi casualty toll during the current stage of the operations has reached more than 2,000. Furthermore, some 80 Iraqi soldiers have been captured and transferred behind the war fronts.

In the lightning attack of the Iranian forces Battalion 2 of the Iraqi Infantry Brigade 97 was destroyed by 70-80 percent and the 'Khafif' (light) Battalion 108 (Difa' al-Watan) by 75 percent.

Meanwhile Light Battalion 140, Light Battalion 12, Independent Commando Battalions of the First Corps, Battalion 1 of the Commando Brigade of the 6th Corps and a tank battalion of Corps 39 were all destroyed by 70 percent. In addition Light Battalion 60 was destroyed by 60 percent.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' Statement

LD271203 Tehran IRNA in English 1125 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA — The Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters in a statement issued here Monday said that the Muslim Forces of Iran started the second phase of the Karbala'-10 operations, Sunday night in the northwestern war fronts dealing more shattering blows on the Iraqi forces.

Employing the most advanced military tactics, said the statement, the Muslim combatants crossed the Chuman, Kelas and Qezel Rivers and passing through the mountainous region penetrated 25 kms deep inside northeastern Iraq, capturing 8 heights in northern Sulaymaniyah Province.

The Iranian forces liberated the villages Shahidan, Espidar [name as received], Kani Shuwan, Bulan, Dasht-e Khatteh [name as received], Nalasu, Buskan, Kalisah, Girgasha, Nanval and Baz Gouleh [name as received], liberated 250 sq. kms of Iraqi Kurdistan.

The Muslim forces also destroyed Commando Battalions of Division 25 and 29 and Battalions 60 and 140 of Difa' al-Watani (National Defence) Division, and Brigade 35 of the special forces, seizing eight tanks and several personnel carriers intact in the process.

In these operations, more than 1,500 Iraqi forces were killed or wounded bringing the total casualty toll of the enemy since the start of the Karbala'-10 operations, early last Friday, to 2,700, said the statement. The second phase of the Karbala'-10 operations saw the capture of some 80 Iraqi soldiers, including a number of battalion and company commanders.

Following the humiliating defeats suffered in these operations, the enemy attempted a counterattack using chemical weapons around the 'police outpost' Region, which was aborted by the alertness of the anti chemical units of the Muslim forces of Iran.

The Muslim combatants repelled 8 heavy enemy counterattacks and blocked the Mawat-Karizah, Surah-Qalat roads and took control of Mawat-Sulaymaniyah and Mawat-Chuwartan roads.

The Muslim forces of Iran, added the statement, are now in full control of Zazilah, Khazinah and Qashan [name as received] plains and are checking all enemy movements and thwarting its attempts. The battle continues in the region with the Muslim forces of Iran holding the upper hand, concluded the statement.

Communique No 2,816

LD241731 Tehran IRNA in English 1713 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 24, IRNA — Iraqi forces suffered heavy losses in men and equipment throughout the fronts in artillery duels with Muslim combatants of Iran Thursday.

Iraqi warplanes also violated the airspace of Sardasht, west Azarbayjan Province, Friday morning but were repelled before carrying out any bombing missions by Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

Announcing the above here Friday, the 2816th Joint Staff Communique said that at least 10 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements and observation posts destroyed in the southern front Thursday when hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian Gendarmerie Forces responded to Iraqi artillery fire in parts of the southern and western fronts Thursday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying six bunkers and observation posts, one engineering vehicle and three military vehicles of theirs.

In the northwestern fronts Thursday, heavy Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions inflicted several casualties on enemy troops, destroying one munitions dump, one heavy engineering vehicle and some gun emplacements of theirs.

Iranian artillery fire halted movement of Iraqi engineering vehicles in Qal'eh-Dizah theater, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers.

Muslim forces of Iran maintained the upper hand over Iraqi troops in the western fronts Thursday, opening heavy artillery and mortar fire on enemy positions, destroying an enemy vehicle and several bunkers and observation posts. A number of Iraqi soldiers were also killed or wounded.

Iraqi tank fire was silenced and enemy engineering vehicles were prevented from setting up positions in Yebis, southern fronts, Thursday by Iranian artillery fire, the communique concluded.

Communique No 2,817
LD251659 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 25, IRNA — Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and inspected 18 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Friday but found no suspicious cargo aboard them, said a military communique here Saturday. Iranian artillery fire inflicted substantial casualties and losses on the Iraqi forces throughout the fronts yesterday.

Announcing the above here Saturday, the 2817th Joint Staff communique said that a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and parts of enemy positions, three munitions dumps, three vehicles and a tank were destroyed in the northwestern fronts Friday when hit by Iranian artillery fire. Iraqi fire was also silenced and movement of enemy logistical columns halted.

Iranian forces reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions in Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts Firday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying one tank and several gun emplacements and observation posts of theirs.

Artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants prevented Iraqi forces from setting up mine fields and barbed wire fences as well as constructing supply routes and canals in Mehran, Qasr-e Shirin and Sumar, western fronts, Friday.

In the southern fronts Friday, Muslim forces of Iran responded to Iraqi artillery fire, inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment on enemy troops. At least five enemy soldiers were killed and two trucks of theirs destroyed in a southern theater yesterday. Iraqi positions were pounded and enemy engineering operations halted east of Basra Friday by Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian gendarmerie forces killed or wounded several Iraqi soldiers and set fire to parts of enemy positions and one truck in parts of the southern and western fronts Friday.

Exchange of tank fire between Iranian Muslim combatants and Iraqi troops continued in Hoseyniyeh and western Jofeyr, southern fronts, with the former holding the upper hand, the communique concluded.

Communique No 2,818
LD261610 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA — Iran's naval forces intercepted and inspected six foreign oil tankers and cargo ships in the Strait of Hormuz Saturday but found no Iraqi-bound cargo aboard, said a military communique here today.

Communique number 2818 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces, also said that a three-pronged Iraqi attack on Iranian troops in the Marivan operational theater in northwestern Iran on Saturday, was repelled thanks to the vigilance of the Islamic combatants. It also said 17 Iraqi soldiers were killed and wounded in their encounter with the Iranian combatants who forced the attacking Iraqis to flee.

In the northwestern fronts, it added, enemy tank movements were controlled by Iranian forces in the 'Shanadari' and 'Sayyid Sadiq' areas. Enemy road construction activities were also halted in 'Sayhan' region in the same fronts as well as in Mehran, Helaleh and Qasr-e Shirin in the western fronts.

The communique said Iranian fire on Iraqi positions and fortifications in the northwestern fronts, destroyed an enemy vehicle, a machine gun, and a number of bunkers and inflicted some casualties.

In the western fronts, it said, Iranian forces destroyed one enemy tank, three vehicles, and one 106 mm machine gun of the Iraqis.

Enemy losses in the southern fronts, according to the communique, were a number of bunkers while some Iraqis were also killed and wounded.

In the Nahr 'Anbar, Hawr al-Hawizah and Yebis, enemy tank fire was silenced and heavy losses were inflicted on them, the communique said.

The communique concluded by saying that the gendarmerie forces set ablaze ten enemy embankments and inflicted some casualties on the Iraqi forces, in their areas of assignment.

Official on U.S. Claim of Aid for Tripoli Raid
LD261832 Tehran IRNA in English 1812 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA — An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said here Sunday that Washington is trying novel schemes for pitting Muslim nations against one another with a view to directing the attention of the Americans away from problems at home.

The ministry's official was reflecting on allegations by certain U.S. media to the effect that the Americans might have received intelligence information from the Iranians before bombing targets in Libya on April 15, 1986. He said the reports in the U.S. media are "far too ridiculous to warrant a denial."

The ministry official described the reports as being "absurd and farcical" and said they can be published only by such crooked people as there are in Washington.

Commander Briefs Khamene'i on Naval Strength

LD261300 Tehran IRNA in English 1242 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA — Iranian Naval forces are fully prepared to counter any threat and plot in the Persian Gulf and Hormuz Strait, Navy Commander Captain Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan told President 'Ali Khamene'i who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC), here today.

In the meeting Captain Malekzadegan said that more than 80 warships, frigates, missile-launchers, and logistic ships together with helicopters and hovercrafts, the number of which he stressed was unprecedented in Iranian Naval history, are in full combat readiness.

The commander also briefed President Khamene'i on the Navy's new moves towards attaining self-sufficiency which include repairing of sophisticated ships by Iranian personnel as well as establishment of the first marine training course in Iran.

President Khamene'i in reply stressed on minute search and controlling movements of foreign ships which sail in the strategic waters of the Persian Gulf and Hormuz Strait. He gave further guidelines on the Navy's confrontation with enemies' plots in the region.

Tehran Notes Explosions in Kuwaiti Gas Storage Tanks

LD241642 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] According to reliable sources in Kuwait, several large explosions have occurred in the Ahmadi gas storage tanks. During this incident, which eyewitnesses said involved six to nine explosions within a few minutes, most of the homes in the town of Ahmadi were shaken. Kuwaiti security officials took control of the road leading to Ahmadi, surrounded the town, and began arresting innocent people.

The report says the blasts were preceded by another incident on Monday in which an army truck parked near Kuwaiti garrisons in the Jayran region was set ablaze by gasoline bombs.

Meanwhile, statements issued and distributed by Kuwaiti University students described the Kuwaiti Government's decision to ask foreign powers to protect shipping as a move contrary to the interests of Muslims, and condemned it as such. The declarations note that the powers which Kuwait considers its friends and which it has invited are in fact the enemies of Muslims and mankind. The Kuwaiti University students said in their statements: We declare that security in the Persian Gulf can be achieved only by the nations in the region. The presence of foreign fleets in the area's territorial waters cannot be justified in any way.

Government To Give Syria 1 Million Tons of Oil

LD251739 Tehran IRNA in English 1729 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 25, IRNA — Iran will give one million tons of free crude oil to Syria this year in an effort to meet the requirements of the Syrian Armed Forces and to boost Syria's steadfastness against the Zionist regime, it was announced here today.

The announcement was made after a meeting between visiting Syrian Oil Minister Ghazi Durubi and his Iranian counterpart Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here.

During the meeting, Durubi extended an invitation to his Iranian counterpart to pay an official visit to Damascus. Aqazadeh accepted the invitation and promised to pay the visit at an appropriate time in the future.

The Iranian oil minister described Tehran-Damascus ties as "exceptional" and reiterated that mutual relations should be further expanded.

During his visit here, which started on April 18, Durubi underwent an appendicitis surgery at a hospital in Tehran.